

Firms by Size

The size of a firm is measured by the number of employees in the third month of the first quarter (March) each year. Employment figures and wages for all work sites within the specified geographic location are summed, and then counted as a single firm. Firms by size are counted this way because workers are employed by the same firm even if they report to work at different physical locations.

County level data (number of firms) will typically add up to more than the statewide firm total. Also, the firm counts for this data will not agree with annual and quarterly data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which counts all work sites (also known as employing units or establishments) individually for all geographies. A single firm with multiple work sites is counted once for a select geographic area for firms by size data purposes, but each work site is tallied individually in the same geographic area for QCEW data purposes. For example, a business with four locations, three in one county and one in a second county, would be counted as one firm in statewide data, and as one firm in each county in the firms by size data. In QCEW data, the four locations are counted individually for both the state and counties.

Regardless, the total employment for each geographic area is the same, whether using data on employment at firms or data on employment at work sites.

Firms reporting no employment in the third month of the quarter, but having employment in the first and/or second month and paid wages during the quarter, are summed as "No March Employment." Firms reporting neither employment in any month of the quarter nor wages paid in the quarter, and those reporting no employment but paid residual wages, are excluded from the data.

In some cases, data for adjacent size groups are summed to allow the data to meet confidentiality standards.

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